United Nations A/63/880

General Assembly

Distr.: General
10 June 2009

Original: English

Sixty-third session
Agenda items 13 and 18

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 9 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I would like to present for your attention the text of the statement by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe made on 5 June 2009 concerning the ongoing negotiations on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict (see annex).

I would highly appreciate it if you could circulate the text of the statement as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 13 and 18.

(*Signed*) Armen **Martirosyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 June 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe

Saint Petersburg, 5 June 2009. The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group released the following statement today:

The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group (Ambassador Yuri Merzlyakov, Russian Federation; Ambassador Bernard Fassier, France; Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Bryza, United States) took part, with the Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Andrej Kasprzyk, in the meeting of the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, and the President of Armenia, Serge Sargsyan, in Saint Petersburg, Russia, on 4 June 2009.

This meeting was the fifth since June 2008, when the Presidents met for the first time.

During their tête-à-tête conversation as well as at the working session held afterwards with the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and the Ministers of Foreign Affairs, the Presidents discussed the overall conception of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict settlement advanced by the mediators and reviewed some of the elements of the proposed settlement that have not yet been agreed.

The conversation took place in a constructive atmosphere and resulted in positive steps that narrowed the differences between the two countries on a number of the basic principles of the settlement.

Because of these positive developments in their discussion, both Presidents asked the mediators to continue their shuttle diplomacy and to open a new and major subject outlined by the Madrid document, which, according to their views, still remains the basis of the negotiation.

In addition, the two Presidents agreed on the mediators' proposal for the Presidents to continue their meetings in the nearest future, if possible in July.